

## **Amendment**

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

### **In the Claims:**

Please amend the claims as follows. The following listing replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

### **Claim Listing:**

- 1 1. (Currently amended) A device for operating a valve comprising:  
2 at least one handle pivotally attached to a first shaft for rotationally driving said  
3 first shaft, said handle pivoting from a first position perpendicular to said first shaft to a  
4 second position parallel to said first shaft;  
5 a second shaft slidable in a telescoping arrangement with said first shaft and  
6 rotationally coupled to said first shaft; and  
7 a valve coupling element attached to said second shaft for coupling rotational  
8 motion from said handle to said valve.
- 1 2. (original) A device as in claim 1 wherein said handle is attached to said first shaft  
2 at the center of the length of said handle.
- 1 3. (original) A device as in claim 1 wherein said handle is attached to said first shaft  
2 at one end of the length of said handle.
- 1 4. (original) A device as in claim 1 wherein said first shaft is the outer shaft and said  
2 second shaft is the inner shaft in said telescoping arrangement.

1 5. (original) A device as in claim 4 wherein at least part of the length of said inner  
2 shaft has a cross section forming one of the set including a rectangle, triangle, hexagon,  
3 and spline.

1 6. (original) A device as in claim 5 wherein said rectangle is a square.

1 7. (original) A device as in claim 1 wherein said valve coupling element is attached  
2 to said second shaft by welding.

1 8. (original) A device as in claim 1 wherein said valve coupling element is  
2 removable from said second shaft.

1 9. (original) A device as in claim 1 wherein said valve coupling element includes a  
2 substantially rectangular recess for coupling to a valve.

1 10. (original) A device as in claim 1 wherein said valve coupling element is V shaped  
2 wherein the vertex of said V is attached to said second shaft and the open portion of said  
3 V is for coupling to said valve.

1 11. (original) A device as in claim 1 further including a locking mechanism for  
2 locking said first shaft and said second shaft in a fixed relative position.

1 12. (original) A device as in claim 11 wherein said locking mechanism comprises a  
2 spring loaded button located in said second shaft.

1 13. (currently amended) A method for operating a valve comprising the steps of:  
2 1) providing a valve wrench, said valve wrench comprising a foldable handle  
3 coupled to a telescoping shaft, said telescoping shaft having a telescope locking  
4 device and a valve coupling element attached thereto; said valve wrench initially  
5 in a storage configuration; said storage configuration characterized by said

6        foldable handle folded in a position parallel to said telescoping shaft and said  
7        telescoping shaft collapsed in length;  
8        2) releasing said telescoping shaft locking device from said storage position;  
9        3) extending said telescoping shaft to an extended position;  
10       4) locking said telescoping shaft in said extended position;  
11       5) unfolding said handle to a position perpendicular to said telescoping shaft;  
12       6) coupling said valve wrench to said valve; and  
13       7) rotating said valve wrench to adjust said valve.

1    14.    Canceled

1    15.    (new) The device as in claim 1, wherein the first shaft is a straight bar shape  
2    having a hollow center for receiving said second shaft and holes for attaching said handle  
3    and locking the position of said second shaft.

1    16.    (new) The device of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said handle is  
2    conformally shaped to fit around said first shaft when pivoted to the storage position.